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SUMMARY
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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: A.4.2.3

United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe

UTILIZATION OF NATURAL GAS RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ECONOMY OF LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

By Energy Division,
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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UTILIZATION OF NATURAL GAS RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ECONOMY OF LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

ENERGY DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE.

Experience obtained by industrialized countries in the exploitation, transport and utilization of natural gas resources available to them leads to the conclusion that, in many cases, utilisation by less developed areas of the natural gas which might be offered to them can only contribute to improve their general economy if certain conditions of economic return from the three operations mentioned above are fulfilled.

2. These conditions are:

a) the existence of consumption zones with regular and concentrated requirements;

b) a distance between these zones and the deposits (or supply points) which is in relation to the extent of the demand and, therefore, to the volume of gas to be transported;

c) the utilization of natural gas in consumption sectors where its characteristics as a fuel or raw material will be used to the best advantage from the standpoint of the country's economy.

3. Finally there is the possibility of exporting (or importing) natural gas in liquid form, an operation which is becoming a commercial reality by reason of the progress made in the last few years in the field of liquefaction and transport in liquid form of natural gas.

4. This development may aid the economy of less developed areas in two ways:

a) for those countries which have natural gas deposits, by virtue of export operations which, with an insufficient home market for the gas, would offer the necessary financial basis for exploitation of these resources;

b) for those countries which do not possess such resources but have one or several important markets for the gas not too distant from the coast, giving them an outlet for this fuel which is particularly easy to distribute and very suitable for supplying, for example, to many small factories spread over a large urban centre.

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